

BROADWAY THEATRE. Broadway—Bosnian Girl—Two Dances.

BOVET THEATRE. Broadway—Dances of Interest—The Old Court—Jackets of Blue—Mystery—Fam. L.

KILBO'S GARDEN. Broadway—Sonnambula.

BOSTON'S THEATRE. Chambers street—Upper Ten and Lower Twenty—Apollo in New York.

WALLACE'S THEATRE. Broadway—Speed the Plow—New Footman.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE. Broadway—The Lady of Lyons—Elder Brother.

AMERICAN MUSEUM. Broadway—Damon and Pythias—Romance—New Act.

WOOD'S VARIETIES. Mechanics' Hall, 42 Broadway.

BUCKLEY'S OPERA HOUSE. 25 Broadway—Buckley's Ethiopian Opera Troupe.

New York, Saturday, December 23, 1854.

## The News.

The steamship *Washington*, due at this port from Europe, had not been telegraphed at two o'clock this morning. The America had not made her appearance. A Halifax at four o'clock yesterday afternoon. It is deemed probable, therefore, that she has been taken up by the British government to convey troops to the Crimea. Our despatches state that a terrific snow storm raged at the Eastward yesterday afternoon, and that telegraphic communication had been temporarily obstructed.

Our correspondent in St. Domingo City furnishes an important letter, dated the 22d of November, which we publish to-day. It appears that the Cazneau treaty was all ready, and to have been signed on the 8th of September, but for the interference of the English and French Consuls, and the appearance in the harbor of an allied squadron of five men-of-war, with a declaration, in *terrorem*, to the Emperor Sonologue, that three more were daily expected. This caused the postponement of the treaty ratification; but the question was to be again taken up in an extra session of Congress on the 27th ultimo. It is quite evident that the European allies intend to attempt to cure the constitutional ills of Hayti by the same course of treatment which they have pursued in the case of the "sick man of Turkey," viz: by destroying the independence of the Emperor; for we read that the French Consul caused the publication of a local newspaper to be suspended for "its Yankee principles," and had the American flag hauled down from the fort on a day of general rejoicing. However, we will see the end. One million worth of counterfeit dollars, intended for circulation in Hayti, had been seized, enclosed in sacks of codfish, on board a vessel from St. Thomas.

In the Senate yesterday the bill for removing obstructions in the Southwest Pass of the Mississippi river was made the special order for January 3. A bill fixing the salaries of Judges of the Supreme and District Courts, and of the Orphans' Court of the District of Columbia, was reported. Without transacting any other business the Senate, in accordance with previous understanding, adjourned to Tuesday next.

In the House yesterday the resolution authorizing the President to take measures to procure the erection of a lighthouse at Cape Race, Newfoundland, and was adopted by a vote of seventy-eight to fifty-two. It was opposed by Messrs. Smith and McMillen, of Virginia, as being the commencement of a system to build foreign lighthouses, and as being novel and unprecedented. The bill reorganizing the courts of the District of Columbia was passed by a vote of one hundred and thirteen to thirty-five. The report of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey was presented, and a motion to print ten thousand copies of it, with the plates, to be divided equally between the House and the Survey Office, was referred to the Committee on Printing. A bill making appropriations for the Post Office Department, and the transportation of the mails by ocean steamers and otherwise, was reported and referred. After considering several private bills in committee of the whole, the House adjourned to Tuesday next.

The Board of Aldermen met last evening and transacted a great deal of business. The resignation of Alderman Trowbridge, of the Tenth ward, tendered some months ago in consequence of ill health, was permitted to be withdrawn, the Alderman feeling himself sufficiently restored to attend to his duties. The appropriation of the Councilmen of \$10,000 for the association for the relief of the poor, was concurred in after an ineffectual effort to increase the sum to \$20,000; the Board also concurred in the vote of \$125,000 for the Commissioners of the Almshouse in advance of the regular annual appropriation. The matter of appointing police clerks was set down for Monday next, and the Board adjourned to that day.

The Supervisors were in session yesterday afternoon. A communication from the Comptroller, requesting to pay the clerk of the Board of County Canvassers \$200, as ordered by the Councilmen, was received and referred.

The Board of Councilmen met last evening, and acted upon a number of reports relating principally to streets. Some disturbance arose, occasioned by the interference of a portion of the audience with the proceedings of the body while the question of opening Albany street through Trinity Churchyard was under consideration. Some insinuations were made that disorderly persons were brought in to the Council Chamber by the opponents of the bill, while the facts were that they came from the adjourned meeting in the Park, unsolicited by any one, and strolled into the Council Chamber without any previous knowledge of what was going on in that body. The subject was finally postponed till Tuesday next.

A small attempt of an infernal machine was tried last evening, in the building No. 5 Chatham square. It went off, but whether to the satisfaction of the operator, we are unable to say. No lives lost—no considerable alarm was caused among the inmates of the premises. A report of the affair is in another column.

The December term of the Court of General Sessions closed yesterday. Charles A. Peverly, convicted of an attempt to burn down his store, No. 147 Front street, was sentenced by Judge Beebe to four years and six months imprisonment at hard labor in the State prison. Previous to their being discharged, the Grand Jury made an important presentment, which will be found in another part of this morning's paper. The Recorder thanked them for the unusual attention they had given to the business of the term, during which they had found 216 indictments and dismissed 56 complaints.

The harbor of Brunswick, Georgia, has twenty-four feet water on the bar at high tide; and recently the ship *Agnes*, of Boston, drawing twenty-one feet of water, and loaded with 300 tons of railroad iron, went over the bar at ebb tide, and entered the harbor without a pilot. It will be seen that there is water enough on the bar for the largest class vessel in war.

The four market closed firm, and with an upward tendency in prices. Pretty free sales of common State brands were made, and also of Canadian, both in bond and duty paid. Southern brands were also in good demand. Wheat was scarce and firm, especially prime white. Corn closed at 96c, with holders at \$1.01. New pork was dull at \$12.62. About 1,000 bales of cotton were sold, part for export, and at a further advance of 1 cent.

We publish elsewhere some additional particulars respecting recently wrecked vessels, including a statement by Dr. Maclean, of the St. Patrick, describing the stranding of that ship. By the accident alluded to it will be seen that the unfortunate passengers on board that vessel suffered so

verely at the hands of the sea. The chivalry of Jack Tar seems indeed to have departed. Scarcely a shipwreck occurs that we are not compelled to chronicle barbarities committed by seamen upon passengers who would disgrace an Argentine. We trust the authorities will take cognizance of these outrages, and bring the perpetrators to condign punishment.

The forty-eighth anniversary of the New England Society was celebrated last evening by a grand banquet at the Astor House. Moses H. Grinnell, President of the Society, was in the chair, and numerous distinguished guests were present. Many able speeches were made, abstracts of which, together with a description of the dinner, will be found in another part of to-day's paper. Sena or Seward took this opportunity to make a furious onslaught upon the Know Nothings.

The Colonel Kinney Expedition and the Administration—Strong Symptoms of a War with England and France.

According to our special advices from Washington, which we publish this morning, the projected colonization expedition of Colonel Kinney to Central America is beginning to awaken something of a sensation in our federal capital. Nor can any one be surprised at it, after a moment's reflection upon the intimate relations subsisting between these Central adventurers and the administration.

We have at length a satisfactory clew to the otherwise absurd and inexplicable bombardment of Greytown. That act of unauthorized war was but the prelude to others upon a larger scale comprehended in the general programme, which is now pretty fully developed in connection with this Kinney expedition. The President's official organ at Washington endorses the scheme, and though it disclaims an endorsement in behalf of the administration, it is very unlikely that it would venture upon a step so bold and decided as to puff it to the best of its ability without the approval of Jeff. Davis, Cushing, Forney, and the Kitchen Cabinet. From this point let us briefly glance at the bearings and probable consequences of this startling enterprise of Colonel Kinney and company.

The history of Texas is, doubtless, the guiding star to this magnificent scheme. The liberation of Texas was effected by colonists and means and munitions of war from the United States. The complete success of that enterprise and of its military chieftain, Gen. Houston, might well tempt a more prudent and cautious man than Col. Kinney to strike, upon the first opportunity, for the high distinctions achieved by the hero of San Jacinto. We remember well the facts connected with the liberation of Texas. The funds for that important movement, to a very material extent, were loaned from the New York Custom House—public funds advanced in a private way. The subsequent deficiency in the returns to the Treasury Department from the customs here, of a million and a quarter of hard cash, is mainly chargeable to Texas; but how much of the other three or four millions of the official defalcations which signalized Mr. Van Buren's administration was diverted to the same channel we have no means of estimating. It is enough that private advances from our public treasury largely aided in securing the independence and the annexation of Texas, and that these loans and these achievements resulted also in the subsequent acquisition of New Mexico, Utah, and the gold country of California. Thus the Treasury has been amply reimbursed for its losses, vast regions have been opened to American civilization and enterprise, and the world in general has shared the benefits of the liberation of Texas by private subscriptions from the funds of the public Treasury of the United States.

Results so splendid, so prodigious, so sublime, so beneficent in their extent, their developments, and their operations, might well, we say, captivate such a dashing Texas cavalier as Col. Kinney. What has been once accomplished may be done again. A theory resting upon a successful experiment is founded upon the basis of "a fixed fact," and must be good. But, unfortunately, there is a wide difference between the Austin colony of Texas and the Cooper and Cost Johnson purchase in Central America. In the former case there was no foreign power in the way of a revolutionary invasion, except the feeble and contemptible power of Mexico. So the stalwart American colonists in Texas made short work with Santa Anna, and Texas became an independent republic upon the successful issue of a single battle.

Now, what is the case in reference to this Central American adventure? The Kitchen Cabinet may be willing to advance funds from the twenty millions surplus in the Treasury, after the example of the sub-treasurers of Van Buren's administration; but they seem to overlook the important fact that this Col. Kinney scheme bears no sort of analogy to the case of Texas. It much more closely resembles the Lopez expeditions for the liberation of Cuba; the experiments of Carvajal on the Rio Grande, and the late invasion of Lower California and Sonora by the intrepid but unsuccessful Col. Walker. England has an interest, genuine or fictitious; but she has an interest in this Mosquito coast; and France and England, according to recent declarations in Parliament, have a joint interest in the balance of power down there. We are involved in treaties and negotiations with England upon Central American affairs. The Greytown bombardment has resulted in large accessions to the English Gulf squadron—accessions which have come, and are coming. Our own naval force in the same quarter, near this very Mosquito purchase, is to be strengthened beyond all the necessities for a peace establishment.

What follows? Col. Kinney's colonists attempt to occupy their territory derived from the late Mosquito king. The present Mosquito king remonstrates against this army of occupation—England protests—the English fleet is brought to bear—our own fleet comes to the defence of the colonists. A naval battle is the consequence. We are in for it. France sides with her present ally; and thus, without the authority of Congress, but solely from the unauthorized acts of the administration, we shall have the benefit of a war with England and France for the relief of Gen. Pierce and his Cabinet. The Greytown affair, of itself, has resulted in the mustering at that point of American and English ships of war, which signifies anything but peace. Col. Kinney and his colony of one or two thousand men, for the armed occupation of the Cooper purchase, may very quickly reduce the existing imbroglio to the arbitrament of gunpowder. We know that France and England are prepared to resist any attempt like those forays of Lopez for the liberation of Cuba. What is there in this Kinney expedition to exempt it from the same treatment? Is England or France likely to discover or regard the distinction?

Let this projected expedition of Col. Kinney

be carried out, and its first result will probably be a naval battle at Greytown. The late bombardment at that place will impart a warlike spirit to the American and the English ships in these waters; and a single spark may serve to kindle a blaze of war which will only be quenched in its area by the boundaries of the commerce of the globe. From present appearances it is quite possible that within three months the affiliations of the Cabinet and Kitchen Cabinet with this Kinney expedition may involve us in a war with England and France. Such are the tendencies of the atrocious wickedness, the painful imbecility, and the reckless desperation of this publicly repudiated and fallen administration. Let Congress at once speak up in the subject of this projected expedition before the government, the country, the Treasury, our peace and our world wide commerce, are all involved in the entanglements of a general war, resulting from the agencies of the Cabinet in this wild goose speculation scheme for the liberation of Central America.

## The Case of the Belgians—Pauper Immigrants.

It may or may not be that the Belgians whose examination will be found elsewhere were convicted in their own country; they may have been nothing more than paupers chargeable on the commune where they lived; but certain it is that they were not the class of men which, at this moment, it is to the benefit of this country to import. Operations and enterprises of every kind are suspended from want of money, the demand for raw labor has ceased almost entirely, and an influx of foreign paupers is sure to result in distress both to themselves and to the country. Under any circumstances, therefore, it would be competent and judicious for the authorities to endeavor to prevent the importation of that class of immigrants, at all events until the times have changed and the demand for labor has revived.

But the case must be viewed in another point of view. Whatever may be thought of the defence made by the Belgians, it is proved beyond a doubt that they were shipped from Europe by the police of their own country, and their passage to America paid by the communal treasuries. The act of emigration, if not compulsory, was at least not spontaneous with them; it was plainly the result of a calculation by the government, which showed that it would be cheaper to pay their expenses across the Atlantic than to maintain them under duress of some kind or other at home. Sending them to us was, in fact, the cheapest way of getting rid of them, and hence it was adopted. This is not the first case of the kind that has come under public notice. Shipments of paupers to America by the unions in Ireland and Scotland were common enough until within the last year. France, pursuing the policy which furnished her with the first settlers of Acadia and Louisiana, had often sent a stealthy shipment of pickpockets and vagabonds to the United States; California especially has been peculiarly favored in this way. There are grave reasons for suspecting that a similar practice has prevailed not only in Belgium but in various parts of Germany. When the jails have been inconveniently full of prisoners for minor delinquencies, an emigrant ship has been chartered, and the scamps thrust on board, free to pursue their calling in America. Thus it has happened that New York has served Europe as a sort of penal colony, and it some steps be not taken to put a stop to the system, is likely to continue to do so in future.

Small blame—this being the case—that Mr. Matwell's semi-annual reports should show such an astounding amount of crime in the city. Little wonder that while the foreign population of the city is to the natives as three to five, crimes committed by foreigners should be to those committed by natives as seven to three.

There can be no question but this sort of immigration is highly injurious. Nor can any doubt be entertained of the right of our authorities to put an end to it. Steady, respectable men, whether from Germany, England, France or Ireland, it may be advantageous, under ordinary circumstances, to invite to settle in the United States; but the offscouring of European jails can never be anything but a curse, which government is bound to avert from the country. European governments may be suffered to gratify their dislike of the United States by attempting to sow discord between North and South; but when it comes to sending us not only their paupers but the nondescript classes which at home are kept under the eye of the police, it is high time that Congress should interfere.

A more vigilant Executive would doubtless make the recent case the subject of a strong representation to the Belgian government through our Charge. As Mr. Pierce will probably do nothing of the kind, the matter will be left for adjudication to the members of Congress. The present is a peculiarly favorable time for a full consideration of the questions involved. Independently of the necessity of guarding against an increase of misery through the hard times, the prevalence of the Know Nothing feeling will naturally tend to draw attention to this flagrant abuse of the laws on immigration and naturalization. It is clear that some closer restrictions on the influx of foreigners are needed: whether in the shape of further bonds to be exacted from ship owners, or in some other form, Congress must decide. Nor will the fact, serving as it does as an index to a system of which we can only conjecture the extent, be without weight when the time comes for discussing the requisite change in the law which grants to foreigners the privileges of American citizenship.

RELIEF FOR THE POOR.—It is pleasing to see that a movement has been made in several wards to appoint committees for the relief of the poor and destitute during the coming winter. The action already taken should be followed up in every ward of the city. People should be called upon to subscribe according to their means, and the money placed in the hands of ward committees, composed of respectable men, politicians being expressly excluded. This much can and should be done without delay. If possible, the city should commence the public works it requires at once; the new City Hall would give employment to thousands. To the government it were of course futile to apply. There are in the treasury twenty-five millions in gold—enough to support all the poor in the United States during the winter; but the people will starve before a dollar comes forth. The key of the treasury chest only turns in the lock when rogues at Washington crave plunder, or a foreign despot, like Santa Anna, asks for a gift to enable him to consolidate despotism on our borders.

## The Gadsden Purchase and the Policy of the Spoils Cabinet.

The can't-us language of the President in his last annual message on a subject of granting lands for railroad purposes, coupled with the "big" of Mr. Secretary Guthrie at the banks, is suggestive of some ulterior motive not immediately transparent; but which we hope will be made so during the present session of Congress. For the purpose of aiding in this investigation we propose to enlighten our readers by a simple statement of facts, which the administration will hardly have the temerity to deny.

Nearly four years ago, Major Steen, of the United States Dragoons, was ordered to Washington from Fort Fillmore—a small outpost on the southern confines of New Mexico—an elaborate report on the silver and copper mines of that region, and especially along the mountain slopes that form the north-east boundary of the Mesilla Valley. This he accompanied with numerous specimens of great richness, gathered not only with his own hands, but purchased from the Indians. It is well to remember these facts, since they reveal to us the secret history of many acts of Mr. Fillmore's administration.

Coupling this evidence of the mineral riches of that country with the dispute then existing among the Boundary Commissioners as to the initial point of the survey, Mr. Webster, as Secretary of State, predicated the American claim to the Mesilla Valley, and laid the preliminary train for the negotiation that has since resulted in securing to the United States the tract ceded by the Gadsden treaty. It is here, in fact, that that famous convention had its origin.

But so carefully were the avenues of intelligence guarded at Washington, that the revelations of Major Steen (as well as of those sent out subsequently to corroborate his statements), were transferred from the archives of the War Department to those of the Presidential mansion, where they have since remained, unknown even to the most confidential clerk in the War office. The reasons for this secrecy were obvious—first, because our claim to the territory was denied by Mexico, whose cupidity it was not policy to excite; and second, because the Union was then agitated by a political turmoil growing out of the admission of California, that tasked the energies of the administration to a degree that rendered them powerless for the consummation of a single measure.

The anomalous history of the gold regions on the Pacific—the rapidity of their settlement—their sudden transformation to a mighty State, so abundant in wealth as to dictate a financial policy to the Union—nay, more than this, the very terms upon which alone she would concede allegiance to the constitution, were circumstances well calculated to make even a man like Daniel Webster pause. The violent issues between the North and the South, arising from this sudden introduction of a full grown State into the confederacy with a constitution prohibiting slavery, made it the height of madness to attempt another blow on the portals of the Union. The scheme of amalgamating politics and minerals was therefore abandoned, and the feeble energies of Mr. Fillmore's administration were directed to a preservation of its golden secret, and to a peaceful adjustment of our difficulties with Mexico. Unfortunately, however, for the consummation of these objects, a state of anarchy prevailed, and so distracted the neighboring republic that the crowning hopes of Mr. Webster's life perished in the same grave with his political aspirations.

It is unnecessary to recapitulate the overthrow of the whig party that almost immediately followed the passage of the compromise measures, or to refer to the intervening circumstances that protracted so long the gathering up of the arteries left untied by the outgoing administration. Neither is it requisite to inquire how soon the band of "spoilsmen," whom the new President summoned to his council board, began to ransack the vacated chambers of the White House. It is sufficient for us to know that among the earliest acts of Gen. Pierce's Cabinet was the re-assertion of our claim to the Mesilla, and the accomplishment of the Gadsden treaty as soon as there was a treaty making power in Mexico.

Of the capacity of this region to contribute vast quantities of the precious metals we are assured the administration have the most abundant proofs, not only in the smothered reports of Major Steen, (who asserts that the outcroppings of silver ore are so numerous, and the metal so pure, as to be clipped from the rocks in masses with a common sword), but from sources equally unquestionable. Independently of this, however, the mineral riches of Northern Mexico are matters of history. The Spaniards found it profitable two hundred years ago to pack the ore on the backs of mules and transport it a distance of 1,500 miles over the wild regions of Chihuahua and Durango.

The consummation of General Gadsden's treaty did not, however, wholly ripen the pear. Other considerations of magnitude presented themselves to the mind of General Pierce and his coadjutors in this complicated game of politics and plunder.

Ostensibly, and, in fact, negotiated for the purpose of giving a southern direction to the Pacific Railroad, the treaty indistinctly foreshadowed hopes more immediately consonant with the cardinal tenets of democratic faith—the ultimate establishment of a specie currency in the United States, a measure that is to be reached by a gratuitous cancellation of the government bonds, and by means of a greater reduced tariff.

The silence of the administration about the resources of this Mexican purchase, to say the least of it, looks suspicious; and now that the Nebraska bill, which only received an endorsement from Gen. Pierce's Cabinet because it settled the principle upon which the new State of Mesilla is to be ushered into the Union, has removed the great political obstacles in the way of its settlement, and the President has declared himself against the granting of lands for railroad purposes, we see no reason for keeping back a discovery fraught with so much benefit to the country. How much longer an effort will be made at Washington to conceal the treasures found among the musty papers of Mr. Fillmore remains to be seen. Perhaps the Kitchen Cabinet indulge the hope until the eve of the next Presidential canvass, when the mine will be sprung upon the country, with the expectation of rallying the party under the banners of the present incumbent. Let the reports of Major Steen be at once exhumed.

W. H. SEWARD AND THE KNOW NOTHING.—We give in our columns to-day an article from the *National Democrat*, a hard shell paper published in this city, touching the chances of Seward in the Assembly against the Know Nothings. The *Democrat* doubts the practical

strength of the Know Nothings against the re-election of Seward. We, too, have our misgivings upon the subject. But the Know Nothings are very sanguine. They have counted noses. We have published their estimates and calculations as we have received them, and await the test in the Legislature. We hope they may succeed; but the case is in their hands. The issue is of the highest importance—they know it, and we await the result.

BANKS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—While Congress is engaged on the subject of banks it would be well for some member to furnish us with a detailed sketch of the history of the house of Selden, Withers & Co., which has recently failed so lamentably, owing everybody, and having little or no assets. It seems that this house had no capital but what it had contrived through former Kitchen Cabinets to obtain from the U. S. Treasury and from the State of Virginia. It was closely connected with the present Kitchen Cabinet, and if Mr. Guthrie had not insisted on withdrawing the government monies, Forney and all the others would doubtless have been still hand and glove with the house. Altogether, the developments which a thorough inquiry would bring to light would well repay the trouble.

## THE LATEST NEWS.

## BY MAGNETIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

## Non-Arrival of the European Steamers.

PORTLAND, Dec. 22—11 P. M.  
There were no signs of the America at Halifax at half past four o'clock this afternoon, since which time the telegraph in the neighborhood of Bangor has been down, and there are but slight chances of the line resuming work before to-morrow morning.

Nothing has been heard of the *Saran Sands* at this port up to the present moment.

SARBY HOOK, Dec. 22—11 P. M.

The steamship *Washington* has not yet been signalled off this port.

## Lately News from Washington.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE NEW YORK HERALD.  
THE KINNEY-AMERICAN EXHIBITION—GATHERING OF A WAR CLOUD ABOUT GREY-TOWN—HIGHLY INTERESTING DUEL IN EMBRYO—ENEMY WAITING THE ARRIVAL OF GENERAL SAM HOUSTON—OLD SAM'S JUNCTION WITH THE BAPTIST CHURCH SUPPOSED TO BE A DODGE, ETC., ETC.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1854.  
The projected colonization expedition of Colonel Kinney to Central America is exciting quite a sensation here as well as elsewhere. It is generally believed that the administration is virtually pledged to see Colonel Kinney safely installed in his new republic. Unquestionably the Kitchen Cabinet hold a large amount of sympathy, and perhaps, also, of stock, in this grand adventure. The plan is to send down one or two thousand men, armed and equipped, to plant the colony. Having first obtained a foothold in the Mosquito purchase, they are forthwith to begin "the extension of the area of freedom," and to keep it up till all the Central American States are absorbed in this Cooper, Cost Johnson and Kinney republic.

The glens of war are to be derived from the stock of the thirty-five million acre tract, which the company suppose they own down there. It is also understood here that Secretary Dobbin is to make a diversion in favor of the new colony, in the concentration of all the available ships of the home squadron, as a check upon the English and French, whose naval force in that quarter, as you are well aware, is in process of being largely increased. So you see that in this Kinney scheme we have the promising nest egg for a naval collision with France and England. Thus, too, you will perceive that the bombardment of Greytown had a meaning in it, and an object in view of the largest dimensions, and of the most brilliant character.

The next most prominent topic of conversation here is an impending personal declaration of war against Gen. Sam Houston. It is an affair which has been held in suspense for a good many years, but which a certain speech within the last year of Houston's has brought to a crisis. Some of the old founders of the Texas republic are implicated. With the arrival of Houston, General Branch T. Archer, of Virginia, one of their number, will wait upon Houston, with the usual military document in such cases; and, since the extraordinary affair between Breckenridge and Cushing, the curious are very anxiously awaiting the denouement.

General Houston, meantime, apprised of his danger, has been settling up his affairs with this world, and preparing himself for the sublime contingencies of the world to come. He has lately become a member, in full communion, of the Baptist Church, and has been baptized by immersion in some of those beautiful fresh water rivers of Texas, which maintain a pleasant temperature even till Christmas. Salt water baptism is not considered orthodox among the old side Texas baptists. There are some censorious people here, however, who suppose that this religious movement of Old Sam is a dodge—that he has joined the church to avoid the "bloody ground" of Bladenburg. Very few are willing to bet that the prudent old Senator will come up to the scratch. To be sure, the acceptance or refusal of a challenge is no test of a man's courage, and both for his country and upon his own private account, Houston has shown heretofore that he is no coward.

Still it is supposed that he is now holding off, and will for a month or two keep to the windward of Washington, on account of the belligerents whom he knows to be here waiting for him. It is understood that, instead of coming directly on, he will strike up the Mississippi, and through Ohio to Cleveland, thence circuitously to New York city, where, in pursuance of an invitation from E. C. Delavan, he will lecture on temperance; thence it is expected he will make the detour of the New England States, as a lecture on the end of the session, will be his. But if he waits till the end of the session, will probably receive Gen. Archer among his first visitors to congratulate him on his return. So he might as well come on without further delay. If he is fearful of personal violence, will not the laws protect him?

ARRIVAL OF MR. ATCHISON—GOV. STEPTON—STRENGTHENED—SUFFRAGE COUNT PROCEEDINGS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1854.

Senator Atchison arrived here to-day, and took his seat in the Senate.

The Union of this morning publishes officially the confirmation of Col. Steptoe as Governor of Utah, vice Brigham Young. He is to assume the office immediately. The steamboat Union, belonging to Paine & Co., caught fire at her wharf yesterday, and after burning for a while filled with water, and sank. No person on board of her was injured. Railroad passengers, in consequence of it, had to take stages to convey them to Alexandria.

In the Supreme Court, the case of William Fountain, appellant, vs. William Raveau, was taken up. Argument concluded by Mr. Petigru for the appellee. Adjourned to Tuesday.

## Dreadful Accidents on the Central Railroad.

STRAUCH, Dec. 22, 1854.

The express train on the Central road coming east this morning ran against a slight train, and the horses, in consequence, becoming unmanageable, the man who was driving them was thrown upon the track, when the locomotive passed over him, mangled him in a most horrible manner. His head and legs were completely severed from his body. The accident occurred between Syracuse and Rochester.

A German, whose name is unknown, was run over and killed by the express train from the East, this afternoon, near Wampsville, on the Central railroad. He was walking on the track at the time.

## From Buffalo.

ICE-BOUND VESSELS IN LAKE ERIE—SUFFERING AMONG THEIR CREWS, ETC.

BUFFALO, Dec. 22, 1854.

We have intelligence of considerable suffering among the crews of different vessels ice-bound in Lake Erie, of Malden, and between Point au Pelee and the shore. They are supposed to be suffering from hunger. Flakes of ice are flying from many of them. All efforts to get a steamer to them through the ice have as yet proved unavailing. Means are now being taken to reach them in small boats.

## State of the Weather.

QUINCY, Dec. 22, 1854.

The weather continues intensely cold here, the thermometer indicating 23 degrees below zero this morning. We have 16 inches of snow on the ground. Flakes of ice are flying from many of them. All efforts to get a steamer to them through the ice have as yet proved unavailing. Means are now being taken to reach them in small boats.

## Extensive Conflagration.

DESTRUCTION OF THE MANCHESTER PRINT WORKS—LOSS \$100,000.

PROVIDENCE, Dec. 22, 1854.

The cloth printing establishment, known as the Manchester Print Works, situated in Smithfield, owned principally by W. F. Barker, the control of Theodore Schroeder, Esq., was entirely consumed yesterday evening.

The fire broke out about seven o'clock, while the works were lighted up and in running order, and, although the force pumps were in excellent condition and were immediately brought into requisition, such was the intensity of the cold, and combustible nature of the materials in the process of printing, that all efforts to subdue the flames proved entirely fruitless.

The main building, containing the machinery, the packing room, the boiler house, (one of the best of its kind to be found in any establishment in the country), the office house and raising room, two dry sheds and the gear or counting room, were entirely consumed. The boiler and engine of the concern were all saved, but in a charred condition.

Some thirty thousand pieces of goods, in the various stages of finishing, valued at over fifty thousand dollars, were either totally destroyed or materially damaged. A large amount of drugs were also consumed, the value of which has not been ascertained.

The total loss is estimated at \$100,000. The insurance on the building, machinery, copper rollers, drugs and packages of goods, is \$35,000. There is an insurance on the goods also in this city of \$47,000, and \$21,000 in the cities of Hartford and Springfield.

## From Philadelphia.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE—RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 22, 1854.

The extensive store of Messrs. Parvin & Buck, corner of Twelfth and Chestnut streets, was destroyed by fire this morning. Loss \$9,000. The adjoining building, formerly occupied by Sanford's opera troupe, and burned down a year since, was considerably damaged.

The locomotive attached to the early York train broke down at Spotswood. The passengers had to be taken back, but no one was injured.

## From Baltimore.

CONVICTION OF WM. H. MARTIN—MISSING MAIL FROM NEW YORK—SINGULAR ARRESTED.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 22, 1854.

Wm. H. Martin, formerly a clerk in the Post Office of this city, was to-day convicted on the charge of abstracting the contents of the letters passing through his hands.

The mail which left New York on the 18th inst. for this city, containing a large amount of money, is missing. It is supposed to have gone to New Orleans.

The burglar who robbed the store of W. F. Ponders of silks and satins, to the value of \$4,000, was arrested last night, and a large portion of the goods recovered.

## From Charleston.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER NASHVILLE—REPORTED FAILURE.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 22, 1854.

The steamer Nashville arrived here to-day after a passage of forty-nine hours from New York.

It was reported to-day that another large cotton house of this city had failed.

## The Railroad Excursionists.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 22, 1854.

The railroad excursionists from Philadelphia arrived here at 11 o'clock this morning, and were received by our city authorities. A public dinner was given them this afternoon, at which Mayor Brownell presided, who warmly welcomed them in an eloquent speech, which was duly responded to by many of the excursionists.

## Markets.

PHILADELPHIA STOCK BOARD.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 22, 1854.

The money market is unchanged. Stocks firm; Reading, 35; Morris, 11; Long Island Railroad, 19; Penn. RR Co., 40; Penn. Ave., 80.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 21, 1854.  
The prices of cotton are to-day, but not quite so low. The sales add up 9,000 bales. Middling is quoted at 8c. Bacon sides